

**Figure 4** illustrates an elevation view of a preferred coupling and connectors made in accordance with the present invention;

**Figure 5A** graphically illustrates a relative spacing of a non-cluster type conventional acoustic source array;

**Figure 5B** graphically illustrates the calculated performance of the non-cluster type conventional acoustic source array;

**Figure 5C** graphically illustrates the available frequency range of the non-cluster type conventional acoustic source array;

**Figure 5D** graphically illustrates an exemplary spacing of a clustered acoustic source array that employs the teachings of the present invention;

**Figure 5E** graphically illustrates the calculated performance of a clustered acoustic source array that employs the teachings of the present invention;

**Figure 5F** graphically illustrates the available frequency range of a clustered acoustic source array that employs the teachings of the present invention; and

**Figure 6** schematically illustrates an exemplary acoustic source system deployed in a marine environment.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 16 with the following:

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Referring now to **Figures 1A** and **1B**, the air guns **102a-d** of the air gun cluster **100** have a preferred spatial relationship relative to the water surface **110**, the direction of towing **T**, and each other. The air guns **102a-d** are arranged generally along a horizontal plane **H-H** that is substantially parallel with the water surface **110**. By maintaining the air guns **102a-d** at a substantially common depth, the forces associated with air gun activation will be more symmetric than the forces associated with air guns positioned at different depths. It will be understood that the term "water surface" refers to a nominal condition wherein the water surface is relatively flat and unperturbed by, for example, inclement weather. Accordingly, the "water surface" or "a plane parallel to the water surface" is used synonymously with the term "horizontal plane." Further, the ports **103c** of the air guns are aligned along substantially the same plane **B-B**. Plane **B-B** is substantially vertical (*i.e.*, perpendicular to the water surface). This alignment of the ports **103c** promotes the coalescence of the air bubbles created by the high-pressure fluid (*e.g.*, air) discharged from the ports **103c**. Where more than one cluster is used, it is also preferred that the ports of